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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Veterans of the United States Armed Forces served
3 their country selflessly and honorably; and

4 WHEREAS, Veterans face numerous barriers to stable
5 employment and stable environments; and

6 WHEREAS, Returning veterans who have served since 2001 have
7 an unemployment rate 3.2% higher than the general population,
8 which is just one contributing factor to many economic
9 hardships they may face; and

10 WHEREAS, All veterans have a higher risk of mental health
11 issues, which may include, but is not limited to,
12 post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, and
13 substance abuse; and

14 WHEREAS, Many contributing factors lead to veterans, who
15 comprise 7% of the total population, being 13% of the homeless
16 population; and

17 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois State Senate and the
18 Illinois House of Representatives recognize the need to ensure
19 for the well-being of all veterans, to better protect homeless
20 veterans, and to help homeless veterans reenter society as

1 productive citizens; and

2 WHEREAS, The licensing of halfway houses, shelters, and
3 transitional housing programs that service homeless veterans,
4 and oversight of such facilities and programs by local housing
5 and community mental health boards, should be provided to
6 protect the rights of homeless veterans; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Homeless Veteran
10 Protection Task Force; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of one
12 representative from the Department of Veterans' Affairs,
13 chosen by the Director of Veterans' Affairs; one representative
14 from homeless shelters, chosen by the Governor; one
15 representative from the Department of Human Services, chosen by
16 the Secretary of Human Services; one representative from the
17 Department of Public Health, chosen by the Director of Public
18 Health; and one representative from local governments, chosen
19 by the Governor; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall conduct a comprehensive
21 study with the goal of determining necessary protections and
22 oversights of homeless shelters to better protect the rights of

1 homeless veterans; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force shall serve
3 without compensation; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall
5 provide staffing and administrative services to the Task Force
6 upon request; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall submit a report of its
8 findings to the Governor and the four legislative leaders no
9 later than January 15, 2014.